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## Objections to the draft local plan (with a focus on the park and ride development proposed for Thanington Rec)

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From Verity Thornhill [REDACTED]  
Date Mon 29/09/2025 16:35  
To Consultations <Consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

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Dear Canterbury City Council

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of a 900-space park and ride car park on the local recreation ground at Thanington Recreation Ground.

This plan poses a significant threat to our local green space, which currently serves a vital role in the community. The area is not just open land — it is a well-used recreation ground that includes a community centre, over 100 mature trees, and playing fields regularly used by a local Sunday league football club as well as by the local community throughout the week. The loss of this space would be a serious blow to the health, wellbeing, and cohesion of our community.

Independent consultants rejected a similar proposal at this site in 2008, and many of the same concerns remain today. The increase in traffic in an already congested area would likely worsen air quality and road safety, particularly around peak times - and the proximity of the community resource centre, playground and skate park right by the proposed site is a big concern.

The loss of such a large expanse of green space to be replaced with concrete and tarmac is also alarming with the river being so close to the site. The run off from a car park would increase the risk of flooding in the area.

Moreover, it is deeply concerning that the plan appears to ignore more sustainable alternatives. I support the idea of a multistorey car park in the existing park and ride site — which would minimise land use — and a **redesigned slip road** to allow easier and more direct access into Canterbury via Wincheap. These alternatives would preserve valuable green space while still addressing the city's parking and traffic concerns.

I urge the council to reconsider this plan and to engage with residents and stakeholders to explore more balanced, environmentally responsible options.

Yours sincerely,  
Verity Thornhill

[REDACTED]